

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS WITH SCHOOL DROP OFF AREAS**

# **PL 07-03**

Discipline: Fire and Life Safety

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References: Title 19 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Public Safety,  
Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, Article 3, Section 3.05  
California Vehicle Code, Section 22500.1

A policy is based on law and code objectives, addressing any aspect of DSA's Fire and Life Safety plan review program that is not clearly addressed by statute or regulations. Policy may specify administrative or technical requirements that are not currently addressed within Title 24 or its Referenced Standards, but are deemed necessary to fulfill DSA program objectives. DSA Policies are reviewed on a regular basis and subject to revision at any time.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to clarify code requirements based on the State Fire Marshal Regulations, Title 19 CCR and the Vehicle Code for School Campus Fire Department Access. Title 19 CCR does not address issues where the Vehicle Code may impose additional requirements.

**Background:** In the case of fire department access, Title 19 CCR Article 3 Section 3.05 requires, "Access roads from every building to a public street shall be all-weather hard-surfaced (suitable for use by fire apparatus) right-of-way not less than 20 feet in width," and with a clear height of 13 feet, 6 inches. Such right-of-way shall be unobstructed and maintained only as access to the public street.

The California Vehicle Code Section 22500.1 States, "In addition to Section 22500, no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer or an official traffic control device along the edge of any highway, at any curb, or in any location in a publicly or privately owned or operated off-street parking facility, designated as a fire lane by the fire department or fire district with jurisdiction over the area in which the place is located."

Many California schools have drop-off or pick-up areas for children to either enter or exit a vehicle before and/or after school. In most cases these areas have a minimum width of 10 feet, and in some cases are parallel with the fire access lane.

### **1. POLICY:**

- 1.1** Fire Access Lanes shall not be combined with or overlap student drop-off/pick-up areas, nor shall these areas reduce the required 20 foot width of the fire access lanes.
- 1.2** Where vehicle drop-off areas are parallel with a designated fire access lane, the minimum total combined required width shall be no less than 30 feet, and clearly marked per Section 1.4 below.
- 1.3** Student Drop-Off/Pick-up Areas shall be configured in such a manner so as to not obstruct the Fire or Emergency vehicles when private vehicles arrive and depart and passengers enter or exit vehicles, per CCR Title 19 and the California Vehicle Code.
- 1.4** The designation of the fire lane(s) shall be by any of the means listed in the California Vehicle Code Section 22500.1, Paragraph 2.

- 1.4.1** Section 22500.1 of the California Vehicle Code allows the following methods for marking fire access lanes.
- “(1) by a sign posted immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the designated place clearly stating in letters not less than one inch in height that the place is a fire lane, or
- “(2) by outlining or painting the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with the words ‘FIRE LANE’, which are clearly visible from a vehicle, or
- “(3) by a red curb or red paint on the edge of the roadway upon which is clearly marked the words ‘FIRE LANE’.”
- 1.5** Distances between posted signs shall be no more than 30 feet, or as required by the Local Fire Authority, and shall continue the full length of the fire access lane, or until one or more of the other approved indicators are utilized.
- 1.6** Vehicles parked in designated fire access lanes on public school campuses are subject to the California Vehicle Code and may be cited, towed, or impounded by local law enforcement authorities.